DPI PROGRAMME Update

UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

15 MARCH 1994

## IN THIS ISSUE

DPI Activities . . . . . 2
News From the Field . . . . . 3
Mozambique Outlook . . . . . 6
Environment . . . . . 8
NGO Section . . . . . 9
New Materials . . . . . 1

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**4–22 April**
PrepCom of the International Conference on Population and Development meets in New York.

**3 May**
World Press Freedom Day

**15 May**
International Day of Families

**16 May**
Commission on Sustainable Development meets in New York.

**25 May**
Week of Solidarity with the peoples of all colonial territories as well as those in South Africa, fighting for freedom, independense and equal rights.

# Rural Women Discussed as PrepCom for Beijing Conference Begins

The plight of some 550 million rural women worldwide who live in poverty should be given priority at the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, Wang Shuxian of China told the Commission on the Status of Women acting as PrepCom for the Conference. She called for practical and specific targets by the year 2000 such as a reduction by half in maternal mortality and making clean water available to all women. Other speakers highlighted the need for education of women, who represent two-thirds of the world's illiterate persons.

## WOMEN IN POWER

International Women's Day on 8 March was observed at UN Headquarters with a special forum with the theme "Women in Power". Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali; the President of Ireland, Mary Robinson; and U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright, were among the speakers. Ms. Robinson said both genders would gain from the increasing role played by women in the public sector. "Women's issues are everybody's issues", she pointed out. The challenge for the Beijing Conference is to show the benefits "not only for the gender, but for humanity".

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali cited progress, however slow, in the advancement of women in the United Nations and globally.

For example, he said, in UN peace operations there is constant evidence of the leadership role of women. He also pointed to the growing formal recognition of women's rights. However, he said, "the lives of millions of women in the world have yet to feel the benefit of these changes". The situation of women in any region could be used as a yardstick for progress in development, peace, democracy and human rights, he said.

***(Press releases WOM 737, 738, and 739, 8 March).***

## EMINENT GROUP TO DISCUSS SMALL ISLANDS

The Barbados Conference on Small Developing Island States will be "an important early test" of inter-

***continued on page 12***

94-14575

# DPI ACTIVITES

## "PEACE-KEEPING AT YOUR FINGERTIPS" LEAFLET ISSUED DPI

UN peace-keepers playing with children, helping the wounded to get medical care and interacting with the local population are shown on the front of a poster-size fold-out leaflet entitled Peace-keeping at Your Fingertips, produced by the Public Services Section in cooperation with the Peace and Security Section, DPI. Its reverse side answers some of the principal questions raised about UN peace-keeping, including a list of current peace-keeping operations. The leaflet, which has been distributed to all UNICs, was prepared in direct response to questions raised by the public, educators and students, some of them already well-informed about the United Nations in general.

Madhumita Hosali, Chief of the Public Inquiries Unit, says the leaflet is aimed at a high school to university-level audience. She hopes that NGOs and the public-at-large will also find it useful. She is planning to produce similar leaflets covering other UN topics and would therefore welcome ideas from UNICs and feedback on the effectiveness of Peace-Keeping at Your Fingertips.

The Public Inquiries Unit responds daily to a large volume of inquiries and correspondence from young people, students, educators, Model UN participants, NGOs, researchers, parliamentarians and the general public. Questions often relate to peace-keeping and conflict, says Ms. Hosali. Her Unit also redirects mail from all over the world to UNICs and is in regular contact with UNICs to advise them on appropriate responses to queries.

**For more information about the peace-keeping leaflet, please contact:**

**Madhumita Hosali, Public Inquiries Unit.**
**Room GA-58**
**United Nations**

## DPI FOCAL POINTS FOR UN CONFERENCES

DPI has designated the following focal points for the upcoming United Nations Conferences:

**The Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April to 6 May 1994:**
***Cynthia Henry, Chief, Anti Apartheid Programme Section, Radio Section.***

**The World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, Yokohama, Japan, 23 - 27 May 1994:**
***Martin Bunnel, Chief, Television News and Production Services Section.***

**The World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, Denmark, 6-12 March 1995:**
***Susan Markham, Chief, Development and Human Rights Section.***

**International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, Egypt, 5-13 September 1994:**
***Ayman El-Amir, Chief, Radio Section.***

**Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, China 4-15 September 1995:**
***Tina Jorgensen, Chief, Special Programmes Section.***

**United Nations 50th Anniversary:** ***Tina Jorgensen.***

## UN OFFICIALS INVITED TO OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY MODEL UN

Each year, timely topics are selected by the Old Dominion University (ODU) Model United Nations Society to help educate high school participants in the issues and the procedures of the United Nations. The 17th annual ODU Model UN Conference (Norfolk, Virginia) recently drew more than 1,200 students from secondary schools in 10 states and the District of Columbia in the U.S.A.

Organized by college students in the Society, the Model UN Conference is convened in collaboration with UNA-USA and UN officials invited to participate as "advisers" to simulations of the General Assembly Plenary, ECOSOC, the Security Council, the Political and Security Committee, and the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee.



READEX
FICHE

# DPI ACTIVITIES

This year, four UN officials addressed students and faculty: Alexander Borg Olivier, Principal Officer in the Department of Humanitarian Affairs; Marian Awwad, Officer-in-Charge of the Centres Programme Section, DPI; Jean Gazarian, Senior Fellow with UNITAR; and Lucy Webster, Political Officer in the Centre for Disarmament Affairs.

### Enthusiasm and Creative Thinking

"Their seriousness and 'creative' thinking made me wonder what the next generation of UN civil servants might be like", Ms. Awwad stated. Model UN Conferences are a truly unique way of educating youth about the challenges of our world and the difficulties faced in solving them, she added. "It is sometimes surprising to learn first-hand what the citizens of tomorrow think about today's problems and about how we are handling them. One thing for sure, we all shared the hope for a better future for all."

Discussions focused on different aspects of the Secretary-General's report, *An Agenda for Peace*, disarmament issues and review of the Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT); aid to newly independent countries and assistance to displaced persons in Africa; proposed amendments to the Charter; and human rights issues, including genocide and the rights of indigenous peoples.

## UNITED NATIONS IMAGE IN SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa's self-image as it emerges from years of isolation, its perception of the world around it, and its anxiety over future dealings with the UN and the international community in general were among concerns raised at a seminar in Cape Town held from 8-10 February. As an open forum on future relations between the United Nations system and the new South Africa, the seminar focused on the country's educational system and the "successor" generation of youth. It brought together some 30 South African scholars, educators, textbook writers, historians and policy-makers, attending in their personal capacity, and specialists from the UN system. Participants called for a school curricula containing teaching about the UN; creation of a UN/UNESCO university chair of United Nations studies; UN radio and television programmes for broadcast in South Africa; and a DPI booklet on the outcome of the seminar to be published and distributed throughout South Africa. It was suggested that a follow-up seminar be held after the government of national unity is in place.

Panellists included Angela King, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for South Africa, who delivered the keynote address; Olara Otunnu, President of the International Peace Academy; and representatives of UNDP, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, WFP and WHO. The seminar was co-moderated by Mustapha Tlili, Chief of DPI's Anti-Apartheid, Palestine and Decolonization Section, and Professor Peter Vale, Co-Director, Centre for Southern African Studies, University of the Western Cape. The seminar was co-sponsored by DPI and the University

***By Anjali Peck, Information Officer, DPI***

## DPI FACT-FINDING NEWS MISSION TO MIDDLE EAST

A DPI Fact-finding news mission will go to Tunis, Damascus and Amman from 5-17 April to discuss planning for the International Encounter for European Journalists on the Question of Palestine, scheduled to take place in Copenhagen in June 1994, and the UN/UNESCO Encounter for Assistance to the Palestinian Media, slated for Toledo, Spain, in September. The mission will be headed by Mustapha Tlili, Chief of the Anti-Apartheid, Palestine and Decolonization Section, and Robin Roosevelt, Information Officer. Journalists from the following countries will participate in the mission: Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, and Sweden.

Mr. Tlili will also go to Paris to finalize arrangements for the Seminar on Media Development and Democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean, scheduled to take place in Santiago from 2-6 May.

# NEWS FROM THE FIELD

### Unis Bangkok

UNIS Bangkok announces that the comprehensive guide on trading with China, entitled the ***Guidebook on Trading with the People's Republic of China***, can be ordered by contacting the United Nations Sales Offices in New York and Geneva (Fax: (212) 963 3489 and 41-22-9170027).

How to improve the collaboration between NGOs and UNHCR to help refugees and internally displaced was discussed at the Regional Conference for South-east Asia and Oceania held from 14-16 February at the Royal River Hotel, Bangkok. The meeting was sponsored jointly by the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Regional meetings have already been held in Caracas, Kathmandu and Tunis in 1993 and 1994, and others will be held in Addis Ababa and Budapest, in March and April 1994. These Conferences will culminate in a NGO/UNHCR global Conference scheduled to be held in Oslo in June 1994. NGOs and UNHCR will address the search for improved partnership in protection, repatriation, and emergency response.

### UNIC Copenhagen

A booklet about the 750,000 Palestinian refugees currently living in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria is the latest result of UNIC/UNRWA co-production. Available in Danish, Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish, the booklet describes where the refugees are located, and what health and education programmes are available through the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA).

Kim Garval, Officer-in-Charge of UNIC Copenhagen, was invited to take part as observer in a one-day conference in Copenhagen to discuss the future United Nations, including improvement of the organizational structure. Key-note speakers were Ritt Bjerregaard, member of parliament, and Bent Haakonsen, Danish Ambassador to the United Nations.

### UNIC Dhaka

The United Nations Joint Consultative Group on Policies (JCGP) held its high-level annual meeting from 5-8 February 1994 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. UNIC Dhaka played an important role in organizing the meeting which was attended by the Chief Executives of IFAD, UNDPO, WFP, UNICEF and UNFPA. It was held outside New York and Rome for the first time.

UNIC participated in a five-member media task force formed to prepare for the meeting and was responsible for translation and editing of IFAD's materials for a press kit. UNIC also organized coverage of the meeting in ten daily newspapers (six English and four Bengali) and arranged two press briefings.

### UNIO Kiev

The latest issue of UNIO Kiev's bi-monthly UN Bulletin contains an article on the request by Ukraine for United Nations electoral assistance in the general elections on 27 March and the presidential elections in June 1994. The United Nations was also asked to participate in a project together with the European Union aimed at promoting media involvement in the elections by facilitating debates, seminars and journalistic encounters with political candidates throughout the country.

Another article featured in UN bulletin describes a UNDP/UN Internet project in Ukraine aimed at linking computers in Ukraine directly to Internet instead of through Moscow. The project will establish electronic data communications facilities, based on satellite technology, permitting Government agencies, academic institutions and NGOs to access United Nations databases, global data and electronic mail networks and computers operated by academic research centres around the world.

# NEWS FROM THE FIELD

### UNIC Lima

A group of nine Ecuadorian and ten Peruvian artists have donated to UNIC Lima a painting they all worked on outdoors at the Miraflores Central Park of Lima. The painting depicts an Andean scene with allegories and symbols of Andean culture. It also represents the artists' wish for "a world of peace based on beauty and harmony", as one of their representatives said.

Upon receiving the gift during a ceremony attended by a group of prominent artists from both countries, Mr. Isaias Gomez-Linares, UNIC Lima's Officer-in-Charge, underlined the importance of the gesture and encouraged the artists to keep working for peace and development. The painting would be prominently displayed at UNIC premises, he said.

### UNIC Washington

During recent visits to Austin and Houston, Texas, UNIC Director Michael Stopford addressed local political leaders, academics, and media representatives of the Austin Council on Foreign Affairs and the Houston Committee on Foreign Relations. He spoke about UN peace-keeping and the relationship between the United States and the United Nations. While in Texas, Mr. Stopford was interviewed by local radio stations and Houston Public Television's "Almanac". The interview for TV was constructive and supportive of the United Nations, Mr. Stopford reports. It focused on peace-keeping, the role of the United Nations, funding, and future political, social and economic challenges for the Organization. He also held meetings with students and teachers at the University of Texas and St. John's University, School of International Affairs.

In Philadelphia, Mr. Stopford addressed one of the oldest Model United Nations, the Ivy League Model United Nations Conference, organized by the University of Pennsylvania. Over one thousand students from participating schools attended the opening session of the three-day Model UN Conference.

### UNIC Windhoek

In Namibia, a network of population journalists has been established to serve as a national resource before and after the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, September 1994. A joint initiative of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and UNIC, the network now consists of 16 journalists from print and electronic media. Four of these journalists meet every month at UNIC premises for an in-depth briefing on a topic related to population.

Population-related documents and information will be provided to the journalists on a continuous basis, as well as a list of national and international experts. The network will serve as a mechanism for exchange and sharing of information and will reveal difficulties encountered in covering population issues.

During a recent visit to Namibia, Dr. Ranjit Atapatu, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the ICPD, met with the network for an informal brain-storming session on population issues.

Among other activities in connection with population, UNIC has proposed to establish short-term training of a few journalists from the network at the training institutions for population and communication in Ghana and Kenya.

UNIC and UNFPA are working together closely to organize national workshops and briefings targeted at decision-makers, parliamentarians, youths, and government officials. In addition, UNIC is presently supervising the production of a UNFPA-funded five-part radio drama series on teenage pregnancy.

# Mozambique Outlook

## UN POLICE TO MOZAMBIQUE

After a period of delays in the peace process in Mozambique, the United Nations is now stepping up its activities to prepare the ground for general elections scheduled for October 1994. Some 1,150 UN police will be sent to Mozambique to monitor all of the country's police activities and see whether its citizens' civil liberties are being respected. The Security Council made that decision (resolution 898, 23 February 1994) after the Secretary-General reported "significant progress" in the political negotiations in Mozambique. At the same time, the Council called for a timetable for the withdrawal of the UN Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) by the end of November 1994 — no later than one month after the October elections. Any remaining functions of ONUMOZ after that date will be turned over to UN agencies and programmes.

The two parties in Mozambique, the Government and the Resistência Nacional Mozambicana (RENAMO), have not yet agreed on a specific election date. The Security Council urged the parties to set a date so that the electoral registration and other preparations can begin as soon as possible.

## SECRETARY-GENERAL WARNS AGAINST FURTHER DELAYS

The general peace agreement for Mozambique, which was signed on 4 October 1992 in Rome, included provisions for a cease-fire, demobilization of forces, and the holding of elections then scheduled for October 1993. In his report (S/1994/89, 28 Jan. 1994), the Secretary-General welcomes recent positive political developments in Mozambique. But he also warns that the timetable for demobilization and elections "is becoming increasingly tight". The international community will be reluctant to continue to support the peace process in case of further delays, he says.

## EX-SOLDIERS

The demobilization of over 80,000 Mozambican soldiers within the next eight months before the elections "presents a great challenge to the Mozambican economy and the peace process in the country", the Secretary-General writes in his report. The capacity of the Mozambican economy to absorb thousands of new job-seekers leaving military duty "is severely limited", and donor agencies have therefore been exploring ways of easing the problems that ex-soldiers meet. However, a support programme under UN auspices, as proposed, will be entirely dependent on the generous financial backing of the international community, the Secretary-General points out. A new well-functioning army must be created to attract other soldiers that wish to continue to serve in the Mozambican Defence Force.

Another challenge to the peace process, according to the report, is the lack of resources available for the transformation of RENAMO into a political party. The Secretary-General is currently exploring ways of setting up a more flexible funding mechanism. ***(Press release SC/5791, 23 Feb, 1994)***

## MOZAMBICANS RETURN HOME

The improvement in the political atmosphere has encouraged Mozambican refugees and internally displaced persons to return home, the Secretary-General's report says. Half of the 4 to 4.5 million people displaced internally by war and drought have returned to their villages. Some 621,000 persons or 40 per cent of the original refugee population have left camps in neighbouring countries for their home districts in Mozambique. It is estimated that $609.7 million are needed for humanitarian assistance in Mozambique. Donor commitments amount to $559.4 million — a laudable response by the international community to Mozambican post-war needs, the report states.

# Mozambique Outlook

## AVAILABLE MATERIALS

**DPI Publications Information notes:**
**United Nations Peace-keeping Operations, 1993 Update no. 2. (DPI/1306/rev.2, Nov. 1993).**

## VIDEO

**UN in Action: Helping Street Children, One Priority as Mozambique Turns to Peace. (13 Sept. 1993, Programme No. 294, E, A, S, F, R)**
As part of an international effort to rebuild war-ravaged Mozambique, UNICEF is helping street children and orphans. Many of these children die before reaching the age of five. Immunization teams have been set up to vaccinate children against killer childhood diseases.

## NEW ENERGY PATH

A call for "a new energy path" and an integrated national action programme for the development of energy systems was made at the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, meeting for the first time in New York from 7-18 February. The goal is to use energy more efficiently; use renewable sources of energy; use and produce fossil fuels more efficiently; and substitute high-carbon-based fuels with low-carbon.

It was suggested that "centres of excellence" be created to provide training, technology support and resource data geared at regional needs.

The term "renewable sources of energy" should be used in the United Nations system to refer to hydropower, biomass energy, solar energy, wind energy, ocean energy, organic waste and geothermal energy.

The Committee also proposed a ten-day session in February/March of 1995 to discuss energy for rural development; the use of biomass for energy purposes; and organization and institutional matters in the field of energy.

### World Energy System Compatible with Sustainable Development

Experts told the Committee that the current energy system is not compatible with sustainable development. Development requires a continued and increased supply of energy — a trend which is not possible with the current consumption rate. Experts called for more investments in energy development and for use of technology in the search for new and renewable energy sources.

## GLOBAL INFORMATION ON WATER CRISIS

The Secretary-General has been asked to assemble global information on the water crisis and to submit in 1996 a report on the state of the world's freshwater resources. Meeting in New York from 22 February to 4 March, the Committee on Natural Resources urged Governments to give highest priority to water resources management for sustainable development in order to protect potential sources of freshwater (Draft Res. E/C.7/1994/L.8, 3 March - resolution to be contained in Committee's final report). This was an essential precondition in the recommendations contained in chapter 18 of Agenda 21, adopted at the 1992 Rio Conference on Environment and Development.

The Commission on Sustainable Development is expected to support the formulation of a global plan to avert the impending water crisis. The plan will define specific areas of priority in order to reduce, by the year 2010, the threat to freshwater resources.

The Secretary-General will also submit a report on the question of the sustainable supply of mineral resources. That report will examine key advances in state-of-the-art technologies to try to avoid environmental degradation caused by mining.
***(Press release NR/217, 4 March).***

## COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TO MEET 16 MAY

The Commission on Sustainable Development held its first meeting in June 1993 to review and monitor Agenda 21. In May, the following topics are on the agenda: health, human settlements, freshwater, toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes. At its session in 1995, the Commission is expected to discuss land, desertification, forests and biodiversity. In 1996, the Commission will deal with atmosphere, oceans and seas.

A meeting of the High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development will take place 17-22 March in New York. The board's focal themes are: linkages between economic, social and political development; new approaches to finance and technology; and new partnerships between the UN system and non-state actors.

**For more information on the Commission's work, please contact: Ms. Sehra Aydin, Major Groups Focal Point,CSD Secretariat, One UN Plaza, Room DC1-868, New York**

# Environment

## AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS

**Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy Reports of the Secretary-General:**

**Changing Global Energy Patterns, (E/c.13/1994/2, 15 Dec. 1993).**
This report analyzes the changes in global energy consumption and production patterns to the year 2020, particularly with regard to fossil fuels. It calls for international cooperation to help the growing number of "energy poor" countries.

**Update on new and renewable sources of energy, (E/C.13/1994/3, 6 Jan. 1993).**
The share of renewable energy in total energy consumption in 1990 was 17.7 per cent, this report says. Estimates of the share by 2020 range from 33 to 50 per cent.

**Energy programme activities within and outside the United Nations system.**
**(E/C.13/1994/4, 21 Jan. 1994).**

**Means to promote and implement energy efficiency in developing countries, (E/C.13/1994/5, 13 Dec. 1993).**
This report gives recommendations on how to save energy in the power sector; industry; the household sector and transportation.

**Committee on Natural Resources**

**Institutional and legal issues in integrated water-resources management (E/C.7/1994/6, 18 Jan.).** This report addresses the link between water legislating and economic and environmental issues, focusing mainly on water quality and pollution control.

**Effects of changing environmental policy on the world mineral industry (E/C.7/1994/10, 31 Jan.)**

**Commission on Sustainable Development**

**Transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation and capacity-building, (E/CN.17./ISWG.I/1994/2, 31 Jan. 1994).** Section III of this report focuses on the topics selected for discussion at the forthcoming session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

*Continued on page 12*

# NGO Section

## NGO Briefing

**3 February 1994: The Role of the International Court of Justice in the Settlement of International Disputes.**

***Speaker: Mr. Roy Skwang Lee, Principal Officer at the Office of Legal Affairs.***

Mr. Lee compared national and international jurisdiction and the different ways of settling disputes. The jurisdiction within a nation State gives both parties to a conflict the opportunity to take their case to court, forcing the opposite party to respond to a given allegation. However, international jurisdiction is subject to different procedures.

### International Court of Justice

Mr. Lee identified three ways of taking a case to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and pointed out that the Court is unable to provide jurisdiction if these procedures are not followed. As a fundamental rule, disputing parties can only take their case to the ICJ if both parties agree to do so. Member States can bind themselves in advance to accept the jurisdiction of the Court by signing a "compulsory jurisdiction clause" which Mr. Lee explained as being a "blank cheque". However, Member States who have signed this clause can reject the opening of a case if they consider it beyond the Court's mandate. Currently, 57 Member States have signed this clause, Mr. Lee pointed out.

Bilateral treaties is a second way to involve the ICJ. The contracting parties can call for the ICJ's jurisdiction if conflicts arise from the treaty. If two disputing parties agree to take their case to the ICJ to file an agreement, the Court can provide jurisdiction as well. Mr. Lee said 11 cases are currently under review by the Court for settlement.

### Enforcement

The decision made by the ICJ is binding only to states that are parties to the individuai case. Mr. Lee quoted from the Charter, Article 94, paragraph 2:

"If any party to a case fails to perform the obligations incumbent upon it under a judgement rendered by the Court, the other party may have recourse to the Security Council, which may, if it deems necessary, make recommendations or decide upon measures to be taken to give effect to the judgement".

During the Cold War, the Security Council hardly ever agreed upon such law enforcement measures, Mr. Lee said, noting that this might change in the future. In general, he said, international law has proven to be effective. He pointed to various fields of international cooperation, such as the international mailing system and worldwide travelling.

### Settlement of International Disputes

The judicial settlement ranks at the very end of the means listed in Article 33 of the Charter for settlement of disputes, Mr. Lee stated:

"The parties to any dispute, the continuance of which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security, shall, first of all, seek a solution by negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements, or other peaceful means of their own choice." In reality, Mr. Lee said, international disputes pass through all these stages of conflict resolution before the ICJ gets involved, if it is called upon at all.

### Advisory opinion of the ICJ

In addition to decisions taken on individual cases, the ICJ also provides an advisory opinion on legal matters upon the request of either the General Assembly or the Security Council. Also the Trusteeship Council and the Economic and Social Council can obtain authorization to request the ICJ's advisory opinion if a legal question arises within the scope of their activities

### BOARD OF JUDGES AT THE IC

The ICJ consists of a board of 15 judges, who are elected by the General Assembly and the Security Council in independent elections. Candidates are chosen on the basis of their qualification, not their nationality. However, the principal legal systems of the world must be represented in the Court. No two nationals of the same State can serve simultaneously on the bench. Small chambers consisting of 5 judges are appointed to expedite individual cases. A State not represented on the board can appoint an "ad hoc judge" to the chamber, a procedure applied in order to take into account the interest of the parties, Mr. Lee said

### UPCOMING NGO BRIEFINGS

**10 March, 1994:** UN Conference on Small Island States.Speaker: Annette des Iles, Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations, Chairman of the Alliance of Small Island States.

**17 March, 1994:** World Summit for Social Development.Speaker: Jacques Baudot, Coordinator of the World Summit for Social Development.

**24 March, 1994:** Women and Media.Speaker: Maria Giovanna Maglia, News Correspondent, and others (to be announced)

**31 March, 1994:** International Conference on Population and Development.Speaker: Nafis Sadik, Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

For Further information on the activities of the NGO Section or on application procedures for NGO association with DPI, please contact:

**Mr. Vincent Piola,**
**Chief, NGO Section/DPI**
**801 UN Plaza, Room U103**
New York, New York 10017
TEL: (212) 963 6842
FAX: (212) 963 6914.

# NEW MATERIALS

**Resolutions and Decisions adopted by the General Assembly During the First Part of its Forty-Eight Session, from 21 September to 23 December 1993 (Press release GA/8637, 20 January 1994).**

**Status of Contributions as at 31 January 1993** (ST/ADM/SER.B/424, 9 Feb. 1994). As at end of January, contributions of $234.8 million had been received for the regular budget. Of that amount, $161.2 million constitutes payments against 1994's assessment (15.2 per cent)

## PUBLICATIONS

**UN Chronicle, December 1993, Volume XXX, Number 4. The Road to Reform.**
This issue contains articles on recent efforts to streamline the work of the United Nations; the opening of the 48th General Assembly; and the situation in the Middle East, South Africa, Cambodia, Haiti, El Salvador, Libya, Somalia, and Yugoslavia, among other things.

**The Human Right to Adequate Housing, Fact Sheet No. 21, (The Centre for Human Rights, Geneva, GE.93-18404 - Dec. 1993).** The Centre for Human Rights estimates that throughout the world over 1 billion people live in inadequate housing and 100 million people live in conditions classified as homelessness. According to WHO, 1.2 billion people in developing countries do not have access to drinking water and 1.8 billion people live without access to adequate sanitation.

**Action 21: Femmes, Environnement, Developpement, Fascicule de reference simple aux recommendations specifique sur les femmes. (UNIFEM, 304 East 45th street, New York, Ny 10017).**

**World Science Report,** launched by UNESCO in Nairobi on 14 February on the opening day of a two-day UNESCO Symposium on Science and Technology in Africa. The Report, to be published every two years, shows that it is only the privileged few who feel the benefits of science. Just a handful of industrialized countries carry out over 80 per cent of world research and development activities, it says.

## CHILDREN

**I dream of peace: Images of War by Children of Former Yugoslavia, (UNICEF book of drawings and writings by children in Former Yugoslavia to be published in March/April, 1994).** "War is the saddest word that flows from my quivering lips", writes twelve-year old Maida from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. "It's a wicked bird that never comes to rest ... war is the evilest of birds, turning streets red with blood and the world into an inferno". More than 50 children in the former Yugoslavia have contributed to this book, which will be published in 10 languages and in more than 18 countries.

**Children and Agenda 21: A guide to UNICEF issues in the Earth Summit's blueprint for development and environment into the 21st century** (UNICEF, Geneva, Oct. 1992).

## VIDEO

**International Relief Workers Prepared for Disasters (UN in Action, 21 Feb. 1994, Prog. No. 322 E, A, S, F, R).** With the frequent occurrence of natural disasters, the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs has devised an exercise geared to assist international relief workers in order to equip them better for disasters. These workers will also train local people in countries that experience disasters regularly. This May, the United Nations will convene its first World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, in Yokohama, Japan.

**El Salvador Prepares for First Free Elections as UN Monitors Process (UN in Action, 31 Jan., Prog. no. 319, E, A, S, F, R).** As the fighting ceases in El Salvador, the nation prepares for elections scheduled for March this year. UN Observers meet with election officials to ensure that the voter registration runs smoothly.

**New Cholera Strain Emerges in Bangladesh (UN in Action, 17 Jan., Prig. No. 316, E, A, S, F, R).** A new strain of Cholera called 1-139 is causing misery to thousands of Bangladeshis and consternation to its medical community. Brought on by last year's floods, this new wave of cholera has already killed 1700 people and could spread rapidly through a population lacking immunity to it.

**Environment**...*continued from page 9*

**VIDEO:**

**UN in Action: International Water Day, 1994, the United Nations helps Vietnam secure its agricultural water resources. (14 february, 1994, prog. no. 321, Dur. 3'36"., A, E, F, R, S).** The Government in Vietnam is striving to restructure its economy. One of the main difficulties in the area of agriculture is the uneven distribution of water. With financial and technical assistance from the World Food Programme (WFP), the Government of Vietnam has successfully completed a major irrigation project.

**UN in Action: Women in huge squatter settlement in Ecuador organize water purchase.**
(28 March 1994, prog. no. 328, dur: 3'36", A, E, F, R, S). In one of the largest squatter settlements in Latin America situated in the Ecuadoran city of Guayaquil, women are setting up groups in the community to learn about entrepreneurial skills. Local Banks and UNDP are assisting women's cooperatives with funding to purchase water tankers in order to bring down the price of water.

---

***Small Islands Continued from page one***

national commitment to the goals of the 1992 Rio Conference on Environment and Development, the Secretary-General said in his message to the Conference's resumed PrepCom at UN Headquarters.

The significance of sustainable development for small island developing States will be the subject at a meeting of eminent persons slated for 21 - 22 April, just before the Barbados Conference to be held from 25 April to 6 May, 1994. The meeting is expected to make recommendations to the Conference.
***(Press release ENV/DEV/243 and 244, 7 March).***

**DPI PROGRAMME UPDATE**

**A fortnightly publication of the Centres Programme Section, DPI.**
**Questions and/or contributions should be directed to:**
**Marian B. Awwad, Officer-in-Charge, CPS/PERD/DPI**
**Helene Thorup-Hayes, Information Officer,**
**United Nations, Room S-1060,**
**Tel: (212) 963 6850**
**Fax: (212) 963 7330**

DPI PROGRAMME Update

UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

4 April 1994

## IN THIS ISSUE

DPI Activities.....2-3
News From the Field.....4-5
Human Rights.....6
Afghanistan Outlook.....7
Conference News.....8-11
NGO Section.....11-12

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**18 April - 7 May**
Disarmament Commission meets in New York

**9 May**
Commemorative session to be held in New York in observance of 3 May World Press Freedom Day. Speakers will include the President of the General Assembly, the Assistant Director General of UNESCO, and the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information

**15 May**
International Day of Families

**5 June**
World Environment Day

## Population Conference must address Good Living Conditions for All

In New York, participants in the third PrepCom for the 1994 Cairo Conference on Population and Development have called for a discussion of good living conditions and human dignity as well as population growth. The PrepCom is meeting from 4 to 25 April to finalize the draft programme of action to be adopted at the Conference. In her opening statement, Nafis Sadik, Secretary-General for the Conference, called for action to reduce unacceptably high infant, child and maternal mortality levels, especially maternal deaths caused by abortion. Algeria, on behalf of the "Group of 77" developing countries and China, pointed out that population policy should be the responsibility of individual countries with their different cultures and religions. The draft programme of action should highlight the need to reduce poverty and the right to development, it was stressed.
***(Press release POP/528, 4 April).***

## World Press Freedom Day – 3 May 1994

World Press Freedom Day will be commemorated by the international community for the first time on 3 May 1994.

At its 48th session, the General Assembly decided to observe the Day to stress freedom of the press at a time of increasing harassment, imprisonment and official censorship of journalists in many parts of the world (48/432).

DPI plans to commemorate the Day with events at Headquarters and in the field. It is expected that the Secretary-General will issue a message. The proposal for the Day emanated from the DPI/UNESCO Seminar on Promoting an Independent and Pluralistic African Press, held in Windhoek in 1991.

## New Zealand Proposes Improved Communication Between Security Council and Troop Contributors

New Zealand's Ambassador to the United Nations, Colin Keating, is the President of the Security Council during the month of April. He hopes to be able to raise the issue of improving the flow of information

*New Zealand...continued from page 1*

between the Security Council and countries that contribute troops to UN peace-keeping operations.

"The Council makes decisions on peace-keeping but without any real input from the countries who send the troops", Felicity Wong, First Secretary at New Zealand's Mission, explains.

Among troop contributors with a seat in the Council are Pakistan and Nigeria. However, major contributors like Canada, India and Malaysia are not involved in the Council's decision-making, she points out.

The Foreign Minister of New Zealand, Don Mckinnon, is expected to visit New York during April. Ms. Wong hopes that his presence will create interest in New Zealand's initiative.

### Safety of UN Staff

In 1993, New Zealand launched a proposal to create a Convention on the safety and security of UN staff in peace-keeping missions and relief operations. That resulted in General Assembly resolution 48/37 that created an Ad Hoc Committee to elaborate an international Convention under which those responsible for attacks on UN and associated personnel would be prosecuted. New Zealand and Ukraine are now working in the Ad Hoc Committee on a joint draft Convention which will be presented to the General Assembly at its 49th regular session.

New Zealand was elected in January 1993 to serve on the Security Council for a two-year period. The five Permanent Members of the Council are China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States. The ten non-permanent members, which are elected for a two-year period, are Brazil, Djibouti, New Zealand, Pakistan, Spain, Argentina, Czech Republic, Nigeria, Oman and Rwanda.



## LINK BETWEEN DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC INFORMATION STRESSED AT UNDP GLOBAL MEETING

The inter-relationship between development issues and public information was highlighted at the UNDP Global Meeting of Resident Representatives/Coordinators held in Rye, New York, on 24 March. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali participated in the meeting together with senior UN officials and UNDP Resident Representatives/Coordinators, some of whom serve as UNIC Directors under the integration agreement between UNDP and DPI.

### Secretary-General Calls for Renewed Development Efforts

In his address to the UNDP Global Meeting, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali spoke about the achievement of peace through development. Development must be seen as "a part of the task of building a more secure and peaceful world community for everyone". However, he said, "the world of development faces daunting challenges". Despite years of development advice and multilateral and bilateral efforts, standards of living continue to decline. This was happening at a time of donor fatigue and severely constrained resources.

The Secretary-General called for the integration of the previously separate concepts of peace and security, and of social and economic development. These concerns should be combined with "respect for the finite resources of the planet", he noted. In "An Agenda for Development", to be presented to the General Assembly at its 49th session, he hoped to explore the linkages between peace, development, democracy, and human rights.

### Unified UN Image in Development

Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information Samir Sanbar called for continued cooperation between UNDP and DPI to further a unified image of the United Nations in development issues. UNDP and DPI had pioneered the launch of the UN Interim Offices (UNIOs), he said.

The Secretary-General's 1992 report "An

Agenda for Peace" should be seen as a conceptual framework for integrating UN activities such as peace-keeping, development and public information in the field, Mr. Sanbar pointed out. UNDP Resident Representatives worldwide could further the integration process by keeping close contact with DPI and informing the Department of specific developments in their respective countries. Among the participants at the meeting were Gustave Speth, UNDP Administrator; Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of UNFPA; Peter Hansen, USG for the Department of Humanitarian Assistance; Nitin Desai, USG for the Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development; and Ji Chaozhu, USG for the Department of Development Support and Management Service.

## NAMIBIA REINTEGRATES WALVIS BAY AND OFF SHORE ISLANDS

In February of this year, Namibia was finally able to reintegrate Walvis Bay and the Off Shore Islands — territories that since independence have been the subject of talks between South Africa and Namibia. When the Republic of Namibia became independent in April of 1990, agreement had not yet been reached on the territories. The Governments of South Africa and Namibia set up a negotiating body to conclude the talks on the Off Shore Islands and the important natural port which is well linked to agriculture and mines in-land.

Maria Almeida, Senior Information Officer in DPI and former Director of UNIC Lusaka in Zambia, began working as a Political Affairs Officer for the Council for Namibia in 1977, set up by the General Assembly that year to prepare for Namibia's independence. A year later in 1978, the Security Council passed resolution 432 declaring that Namibia's territorial integrity and unity must be agreed to through the reintegration of Walvis Bay within its territory. Ms. Almeida worked for the Council for Namibia until the country's independence in 1990.

## JORDANIAN MUSICIANS CREATE ARABIC VERSION OF IYF THEME SONG

The English theme song for the International Year of the Family (IYF) has been transformed into a new version in Arabic by a team of four Jordanian musicians, thanks to Nejib Friji. Mr. Friji was Information Officer at UNIS Amman; he is now taking up duties as Information Officer at UNIC Sana'a.

After Mr. Friji heard the English IYF song earlier this year, he contacted two musicians, the sisters Mona and Zein Awad, 17 and 24 years old, and their music teacher, Ghazi Sharkawi, and his son, Rachid Somai, and asked them to create an Arabic version. The Jordanian poet, Ishaq Hammi, adapted the Arab translation of the English text to fit the music. It was like a family working together, says Mr. Friji about the cooperation between the musicians and the poet. The instruments used to produce the song are guitar, piano and the Oud, the Arabic guitar. All involved artists gave their time and effort for free. The cassette will now be sent to all radio stations in Jordan. CPS is contacting other UNICs to help distribute the Arabic song in time for the 1994 IYF Day, which will be observed on 15 May.

## 2000 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN MODEL UN AT HEADQUARTERS

They came from all over the United States and Canada, some from Mexico, and a few from Germany. Almost 2000 high school students and their 200 faculty advisers participated in the National High School Model United Nations programme held at UN Headquarters on Saturday 26 March. The General Assembly Hall was the main meeting room, and several sessions were taking place in the ECOSOC Chamber and the Security Council. Keynote speaker this year was Gillian Martin Sorensen, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General for Public Policy.

Faculty advisers were informed that a Model United Nations Information Kit is available from the Public Inquiries Unit, DPI, with different UN materials, including the document entitled, "Resolutions and Decisions of the General Assembly".

***To obtain the Model UN Information Kit, please contact: Public Inquiries Unit, Public Services Section, DPI, Tel: (212) 963 4475.***

# NEWS FROM THE FIELD

## UNIC ACTIVITIES ON 1994 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

UNICs from all regions took part in the celebration of 1994 International Women's Day on 8 March. UNICs distributed DPI publications and press releases, including DPI backgrounders on Women and the Secretary-General's message for the Day. Special outreach activities already reported include expanded media coverage, panel discussions and roundtables, seminars and special celebrations, and exhibits.

### Media coverage

The Director of ***UNIC Dhaka***, Eimi Watanabe, was interviewed for articles in three national newspapers: Daily Star, Daily Sangbad and Daily Bhorer Kajog. Other newspapers devoted long editorials and brought out full-page supplements to mark the Day.

***UNIC New Delhi*** informed all major print media about the International Women's Day. This resulted in prominent articles in the following newspapers: New Delhi's Hindustan Times, The Hindu, The Pioneer and The Indian Express. All-India Radio broadcast a programme on the Day's observance worldwide.

***UNIS Bangkok*** issued press releases which were used by Radio Thailand; Educational Broadcasting Station; Siam Rath; Thai News Agency; and MCOT Radio.

***UNIC Bucharest*** distributed press releases that were used by Romanian Radio and TV in a programme on the history of Women's International Day. UNIC organized a briefing for NGOs which was broadcast on a special radio programme on 8 March. Six central newspapers published articles on the Day: Meridian; Curierul National; Libertatea; Adevarul; Cronica Romana; and Nautiunea.

The Manila Bulletin had an editorial, "International Women's Day March 8", saluting women of the Philippines. Material for the editorial was supplied by ***UNIC Manila***. The ***UN Office in Azerbaijan*** issued a special press statement on International Women's Day, which was broadcast on Azeri TV and Radio and published by Azeri dailies.

### Panel discussions and roundtables

***UNIC Lima*** organized a roundtable on "Women's role in the Strengthening of Democracy" on 8 March at UNIC Lima's premises. Among the speakers were members of the Peruvian Congress and heads of NGOs. Officer-in-Charge of UNIC Lima, Mr. Isaias Gomez-Linares, opened the roundtable by reading the Secretary-General's message for the Day. The dailies, El Comercio, Expreso, la Republica, the magazine, Entusiastas, and Peruvian television networks and radio covered the event.

The Director of ***UNIC Dhaka*** participated in a discussion meeting, organized by the Ministry of Women Affairs, with the State Minister for Cultural Affairs and several other members of the Parliament. The discussion was broadcast on national TV at prime time.

***UNIC New Delhi*** provided posters and background materials to two meetings in connection with the Day: the Women's Consortium for Development and the All-India Women's Conference held a meeting with representative NGOs on women's issues to discuss preparations for the Beijing Conference; the National Commission on Women arranged a one-day seminar entitled "Women, Emerging Profile and Challenges for the Future".

***UNIC Panama*** published five newsletters on women's issues: violence against women, education, equality, women in politics, and advancement of women since 1976.

***UNIC Lomé*** distributed a press communiqué on the Day and covered the event in its Bulletin.

### Seminars and special celebrations

***UNIC Rabat*** co-organized with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Morocco a seminar chaired by Her Highness, Princess Lalla Fatima Zohra, and the President of the National Union of Moroccan Women. The seminar discussed ways of promoting the status of women in Morocco and was attended by 65 personalities, including Ambassadors, UN officials, members of the Moroccan Parliament, NGOs, and experts on women's issues. The event was covered by TV and print media.

***UNIC Rabat*** co-organized with the local branch of the Lion's Club a colloquium on "Rural Women and Women and University", which took place at UNIC premises.

In cooperation with the Group on Equal Rights for Women, ***UNIS Geneva*** organized a commemoration of International Women's Day at the Palais des Nations. Director General of the UN Office at Geneva, Vladimir Petrovsky, made an opening statement. NGOs, media representatives, staff members of UNOG and specialized agencies participated. ***UNIC Lomé*** organized eight briefings with the National Committee on the Preparation for the 1995 World Conference on Women in charge of the celebration of the International Women's Day. UNIC showed the video: "The Impossible Dream" at its premises.

The Director of ***UNIC Bucharest***, Bernard Fery, and UNIC staff attended a Special Symphonic Concert on the Day, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Some 600 people, including Government officials, NGOs, representatives from the Diplomatic Corps, and the media attended.

President Ramos of the Philippines addressed some 10,000 women at the Folk Arts Theatre at a celebration with the theme "Together towards a New Filipina Image", organized jointly by ***UNIC Manila*** and the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women. UNIC distributed DPI materials on women's issues at the celebration.

Director of ***UNIC Panama***, Eduardo Niño-Moreno, addressed a forum on Women and Development in Panama, organized jointly by UNIC, UNESCO, UNDP, and the Ministry of Education. ***UNIC Panama*** also participated in a seminar on women in politics, health and family. Mr. Niño-Moreno gave speeches to different audiences in connection with the Day.

### Exhibits

***UNIS Geneva*** mounted an exhibition of works by women artists and a photo exhibit depicting photos of women world-wide.

***UNIC Panama*** participated in the 10th Annual Women's Week during which it exhibited UN documents and materials on the subject of women.

***UNIC Lomé*** held a two-week exhibition of UN documents and publications on women issues at Centre premises.

## UNIC ACTIVITIES ON 1994 WORLD WATER DAY

UNIC activities on 1994 World Water Day, 22 March, were mainly aimed at increasing public awareness of the importance of freshwater resources and their management.

Officer-in-Charge of ***UNIC Brussels***, Ms. Ria Heremans, was invited by the World Wide Fund For Nature/Belgium to participate in a press conference to explain the context, purposes and theme of World Water Day 1994. Scientists specializing in water conservation issues also took part in the press conference.

***UNIC Manila*** observed the Day by providing relevant background information on the Day, including the GA resolution on the subject (47/193) and the UNDP Administrator's message, for dissemination throughout the province of Cebu in the Visayas. UNIC was also requested to provide assistance to Exhibition Asia, a local public awareness campaign, entrusted by the local water authorities in Manila to promote concern for water and environment conservation

# HUMAN RIGHTS

## COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS CONDEMNS RACISM AND ANTI-SEMITISM

The Commission on Human Rights has condemned anti-Semitism as a violation of human rights. The resolution was among 109 texts adopted as the Commission ended its 50th session in Geneva on 11 March. It asked Maurice Glele Ahanhanzou, Special Rapporteur, to examine "incidents of contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, any form of discrimination against blacks, Arabs and Muslims, xenophobia, negrophobia, anti-Semitism, and related intolerance".

### New Special Rapporteurs

A new post of Special Rapporteur to investigate violence against women was created under a text calling for the integration of "the rights of women into the human rights mechanisms of the United Nations". The Commission condemned violations of human rights of women in situations of armed conflict, particularly murder, systematic rape, sexual slavery and forced pregnancy.

A Special Rapporteur will be appointed to study violations of the independence and impartiality of the judiciary in various countries. The Commission will also appoint a Special Rapporteur to investigate reported human rights violations in Zaire.

***(Press release HR/CN/559, 15 March 1994).***

## RESOLUTIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Adopted by the General Assembly during 48th session:

**Strengthening of the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat, (A/RES/48/129, 4 March 1994).**

Supports the efforts of the Secretary-General to enhance the role and importance of the Centre for Human Rights as the coordinating unit, within the United Nations system, of bodies dealing with the promotion and the protection of human rights.

**Plight of street children, (A/RES/48/136, 4 March 1994).**

The General Assembly is concerned at reports worldwide of a growing number of street children being involved in or affected by serious crime, drug abuse, violence and prostitution.

**United Nations Year for Tolerance, (A/RES/126, 14 February 1994).**

The General Assembly has proclaimed 1995 International Year for Tolerance and has invited UNESCO to take the lead role in the observance of the Year. The Assembly recommends that specialized agencies, regional commissions and other organizations of the UN system consider how they can contribute to the success of the Year. UNESCO has named Mr. Serg Lazarez as the focal point for the Year. He can be reached at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, FAX: (33-1) 45 67 1690.

**Human rights education decade, (A/RES/48/127, 14 February 1994).**

This resolutions asks the Commission on Human Rights to consider proposals for a UN decade for human rights education, which should be incorporated by the Secretary-General into a plan of action for the decade. The General Assembly will consider the proposal to proclaim a decade for human rights education at its 49th session.

**Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance, (A/RES/48/128, 14 February 1994).**

The General Assembly "urges States to ensure that their constitutional and legal systems provide full guarantees of freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief, including the provision of effective remedies where there is intolerance or discrimination based on religion or belief".

## 1993-2003: THIRD UN DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM

The General Assembly has proclaimed the ten-year period beginning in 1993 as the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (Resolution 48/91, 16 February 1994). The text calls on Governments to "combat new forms of racism" by adapting the methods to combat them, "especially in the legislative, administrative, educational and information fields". The United Nations should continue to give "the highest priority to programmes for combating racism . . . and apartheid" and intensify its efforts, during the Third Decade, to assist the victims of all forms of racial discrimination. The Programme of Action for the Decade is attached to the resolution.

# AFGHANISTAN OUTLOOK

## HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN AFGHANISTAN

Several humanitarian relief agencies have called for a stronger UN involvement in Afghanistan to promote political negotiations and ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches thousands of starving refugees.

In response to the appeal, the Security Council called for the immediate end to the fighting in Afghanistan, noting that it hindered the delivery of humanitarian assistance. In a statement on 23 March, the President of the Security Council urged the countries in the region to work together to provide humanitarian assistance to Kabul and other provinces. ***(S/PRST/1994/12, 23 March 1994).***

### Special Mission to Afghanistan

The Secretary-General has dispatched a special mission to Afghanistan, headed by Ambassador Mahmoud Mestiri, Personal Representative of the Secretary-General in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The goal of the mission is to "canvas a broad spectrum of Afghanistan's leaders to solicit their views on how the UN can best assist in facilitating national rapprochement and reconstruction, and report to the Secretary-General".

### Humanitarian Agencies Call for International Support

UN agencies have called on the United Nations to break the blockade of the northern part of Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan. At a press conference at Headquarters, Medecins Sans Frontiers (MSF) reported that humanitarian relief convoys had been blocked from Kabul's northern district since early January, and that some 50,000 Afghan civilians were being deprived of the most basic goods. Only "an international presence can open the blockade so food, fuel and medical supplies can arrive regularly", MSF said.

A shift in alliances between Afghan factions in January incited renewed fighting in Kabul preventing the relief agencies from reaching the victims. At least 600,000 people are thought to have been displaced, bringing the total number of Afghans displaced to more than one million. Of these, some 200,000 have fled to Jalalabad, the UN agencies reported.

## AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS

### General Assembly resolution

**Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan, (A/RES/48/208, 10 March 1994).**

This resolution, which asked the Secretary-General to send a mission to Afghanistan, also requests that he develop an action plan, prepared by the UNDP, for immediate rehabilitation of the country.

## VIDEO

**UN in Action:**

Afghans flee fighting in Kabul. (28 March 1994, Prog. no. 329, dur. 3'09", E, A, S, F and R). Many Afghans are fleeing to Pakistan as fighting breaks out in Kabul. With assistance from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), tents have been set up in Jalalabad, East Afghanistan, to accommodate hundreds of thousands of refugees. Families remain trapped as the Government of Pakistan closes the border.

## 1994 NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION CONFERENCE

***The World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction will take place at Yokohama, Japan, from 23 to 27 May 1994.***

Economic losses from natural disasters rose 40 per cent between 1991 and 1992 — from an estimated $44 billion to $62 billion. Deaths from disasters have risen almost ten-fold since the 1960s.

Developing countries account for 90 per cent of deaths related to natural disasters. High population density on vulnerable lands, poor infrastructure and national institutions that are ill-equipped to respond to emergencies intensify the damage from natural disasters. ***(Press release IHA/513, ND/382, 21 Dec. 1993).***

The decision to hold the Yokohama Conference was taken by the General Assembly at its 48th session. The Secretariat for the 1990 - 2000 Decade on Natural Disaster Reduction (integrated in the Department of Humanitarian Affairs) is serving as the Secretariat for the Conference. The Conference will take stock of international and national progress made since the proclamation of the Decade to promote the importance of disaster reduction.

### DRAFT FINAL DOCUMENT

The PrepCom for the Yokohama Conference has adopted the outline of a draft final document and authorized its Bureau members to hold further informal consultations on the text before the beginning of the Conference. The debate, which ended on 18 March in Geneva, focused on less developed, land-locked and island countries and their vulnerability to natural disasters.

The draft document affirms that disaster prevention, preparedness and mitigation should be considered as important aspects of development policy at national, bilateral, multilateral and international levels. Early warnings and the effective spread of information are the keys to reducing disasters.

Each country bears the primary responsibility for protecting its people and infrastructure. However, the international community must demonstrate strong political determination to mobilize the resources needed for natural disaster reduction. For the year 2000 and beyond, the draft document calls for a global culture of prevention, education and training in disaster prevention. ***(Press release ND/386, 22 March 1994)***

## AVAILABLE MATERIALS

### General Assembly resolutions:

**A/RES/48/188 of 1993 - Decision to hold the Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction in Yokohama.**

**A/RES/48/57 of 1993 - Decision to strengthen UN coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance.**

**A/RES/46/182 of 1991 - Call for substantial improvements in international humanitarian emergency assistance which led to the establishment of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs.**

**A/RES/44/236 of 1989 - Proclamation of the Decade on Natural Disaster Reduction (1990 - 2000).**

### Publications:

**A POSTER for the Yokohama Conference is available in 6 officials languages. It has been sent by the IDNDR Secretariat to UNICs/UNISs and to UNDP Resident Representatives.**

**PRESS KIT, including articles, UN system materials, fact sheets and statistics, will be available in English, French and Spanish.**

**For more information, please contact:**

**Ms. Elizabeth Kassay, Information Officer, International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR),Geneva**
**TEL: (41 22) 733 5850**
**FAX: (41 22) 733 8695**

# CONFERENCE NEWS

## 1994 POPULATION CONFERENCE

***The International Conference on Population and Development will be held in Cairo, Egypt, 1994.***

### Population Commission Ends Session

The Population Commission has called for an integrated approach to population and development agreeing that if noting is done, world population will grow to 6.2 billion by the year 2000. The Commission ended its four-day session in New York on 31 March.

A draft resolution adopted at the meeting calls for multilateral technical cooperation to help developing countries train personnel to deal with population matters. ***(Press release POP/526, 31 March).***

### WOMEN'S NGOS MEETING IN BANGKOK

Women NGOs met in Bangkok from 14 to 16 March to discuss population issues and the role of UNFPA. Four previous regional meetings funded by UNFPA were held in Geneva, Mexico City, Tunis and Amman. The discussion in Bangkok focused on stemming negative perceptions on population activities and making recommendations on women's concerns and reproductive health for the 1994 Conference. ***(Press release POP/517, 14 March 1994).***

### AVAILABLE MATERIALS

### Reports of the Secretary-General:

**Draft final document of the Conference, (A/CONF.171/PC/5, 18 February 1994).**

This is the main document for the PrepCom and the 1994 Population Conference. The emergence of national population policies and family planning programmes in many countries is "a particularly encouraging trend", it says. However, in the coming 20 years, development and population activities must be intensified in order to achieve sustainable development.

**Concise report on the monitoring of world population trends and policies, with special emphasis on refugees. (E/CN.9/1994/2, 1 February 1994).**

This report describes trends in refugee populations and gives a factual basis for investigating their economic and social implications. Most refugees in the world have found asylum in developing countries, it says. By early 1991, Asia was hosting the largest refugee population in the world: 7.8 million refugees under UNHCR mandate and 2.5 million Palestinian refugees under UNRWA's mandate. Africa was hosting 5.4 million refugees. In Europe, the number of refugees increased by about 200,000 to about 850,000 during 1985-1991.

**Preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development. Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference. (A/CONF.171/PC/2, 4 February 1994).**

Progress of work in the field of population, 1991-1993: Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis.

### VIDEO

**UN in Action: Vietnam adopts "cafeteria-style" approach to family planning, (14 March, Prog. No. 326, dur. 3'11, A, E, F, R, S).**

The Government of Vietnam is encouraging men and women to seriously adopt family planning. Incentives are given to couples who decide to have only two children. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is supporting the Government in offering various methods of contraception.

## 1995 SOCIAL SUMMIT

***The World Conference on Social Development will be held in Copenhagen from 11 to 12 March 1995.***

### Cooperatives and Social Development

"Cooperative ideas lie at the heart of the three concerns of the Social Summit: employment, eradication of poverty, and social integration", Nitin Desai, USG for the Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, told the Open Forum on Cooperatives and the Social Summit, held at UN Headquarters on 25 March.

Calling for a political environment that is conducive to cooperatives, Mr. Desai argued that the problems of unemployment and poverty cannot be tackled only through large State bureaucracies. Social development depends on institutions in a

society, such as cooperatives, that allow poor people to join together in social harmony, in a democratic structure, to achieve a common economic interest, he said.

The Open Forum was organized by the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC) established in 1971. COPAC is composed by NGOs; Federal Credit Unions; the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA); the Union of Agricultural Cooperatives; ILO and FAO, among others.

### International Day of Cooperatives

The first Saturday of July 1995 will be observed as the International Day of Cooperatives, marking the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA). The General Assembly proclaimed the International Day in 1992 (A/RES/47/90) and asked the Secretary-General to increase UN support to the objectives of the international cooperative movement and to report to the General Assembly's 49th session. On the same day, 16 December 1992, the Assembly adopted its resolution deciding to convene the World Summit for Social Development (A/RES/47/92).

### Cooperatives Input to PrepCom for Social Summit

ICA participated in the first PrepCom for the Social Summit, meeting in New York in February 1994. Funded in London in 1895, the Alliance today has more than 200 member organizations from over 70 countries, representing more than 700 million individuals worldwide. Some 45 per cent of the world's population (2 billion) gain from consumer, financial, agricultural, industrial and housing cooperatives.

In 1946, ICA was one of the first NGOs to be given UN Consultative Status. It holds Category 1 Consultative Status with ECOSOC. Through its Headquarters in Geneva and Regional Offices, the ICA provides technical assistance for cooperative development in Africa, Asia, South and Central America and Eastern and Central Europe.

***For more information, please contact:***
***International Cooperative Alliance 15,***
***route de Morillion, 1218 Grand-Saconnex, Geneva,***
***TEL: (4122) 798 41 21, FAX: (4122) 798 41 22***

## CRIME CONGRESS

The 1995 Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders will be held in early 1995.The Crime Congress is the ninth in a series of events held every five years since 1955. Egypt and Tunisia have offered to host the event, but the venue has not yet been decided upon. The main themes will be international cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice, organized crime, crimes against the environment, and urban crime and violence. The recommendations from the five regional preparatory meetings that were held this spring will be submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice meeting in Vienna from 25 April to 6 May 1994.

### Five Regional Perspectives on Crime

#### Africa

A component in peace-keeping operations that could help re-establish and reform criminal justice systems was proposed at the African Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 1995 Crime Congress, held in Kampala from 14 to 18 February. Participants also called for a United Nations crime prevention day or week to highlight crime problems at the global level. The resolution asked that African countries be allowed to take part in the forthcoming World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime, to be held in Italy in October 1994.
***(Press release SOC/CP/98, 22 Feb.)***

#### Asia and the Pacific

The Asia-Pacific region is being severely challenged by growing criminal activities, such as alien smuggling, illicit trafficing of drugs and weapons, and infiltration of organized criminal groups, speakers said at the Asia-Pacific regional Preparatory Meeting

held in Bangkok in January.

The meeting discussed crime in urban areas and, in particular, juvenile criminality. Speakers called for education of youth and the public in general. The mass media should report in a responsible way and avoid sensationalism that sometimes beautified violence. ***(Press release SEC/CP/95, 21 Jan.)***

### Europe

European delegates called for the creation of special police departments, integrated into an international communications network, to deal with organized crime. The European Regional Preparatory Meeting was held in Vienna from 28 February to 4 March. They also called for a mechanism for exchange of key information on organized crime and quick and flexible reactions to organized crime through international police. ***(Press release SOC/CP/102, 3 March 1993).***

### Latin America and Caribbean

The Crime Congress should debate ways to coordinate international efforts to tackle corruption of public officials, delegates at the Latin American and Caribbean Preparatory Meeting urged.

The Meeting, which was held from 6 to 11 March in San Jose, adopted a resolution calling for the prosecution of transboundary criminal offenses against the environment. ***(Press release SEC/CP/108, 14 March).***

### West Asia

The West Asia Regional Preparatory Meeting, which was held in Amman from 20 to 24 March, called for improved prisoner rehabilitation and proper management of correctional services. The value of applying computer technology in law enforcement was highlighted by some speakers, while others warned that computers were also being used to perpetrate crimes. ***(Press release SOC/CP/110, 23 March).***

**For more information, pleace contact:**

UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch
United Nations Office at Vienna
P.O. Box 500
A-1400 Vienna, Austria
Tel: (43-1) 1 211 31 4269, FAX: (43-1) 1 219 2599



### NGO briefing on 17 February 1994:

Speaker; Ms. Mehr Khan, Director, Division of Information, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

#### UNICEF Report: "The Progress of Nations"

"The Situation of Children in the Developing World", issued by UNICEF in 1979, was the first major advocacy publication of the Organization, Ms. Khan told NGO representatives. When James P. Grant took office as Executive Director in 1980, public information efforts were changed to focus on child survival and development projects. At that time, she said, some 15 million children were dying annually from preventable causes such as dehydration resulting from diarrhoea, the six childhood diseases, and acute respiratory infection. Dehydration, she pointed out, can easily be treated, even without the assistance of medical personnel, with an inexpensive mixture of salt, sugar and water. Vaccines against the six childhood diseases are available at US $5 per child but have been insufficiently promoted, she said. After taking office, Mr. Grant initiated a massive global campaign to implement this simple vaccination programme.

### State of the World's Children

"The State of the World's Children", the new annual UNICEF report, has become a major vehicle for information and an advocate for change, Ms. Khan said. It is launched in important international locations and generates interest by political leaders, governments, NGOs, professional groups, and parliamentarians. Published in 40 languages, the report receives significant media coverage and is a frequently consulted source of information on children, she continued.

### Progress of Nations

"The Progress of Nations", first published in 1993, was developed as a response to agreements and declarations on children of the world, signed by Governments. The report monitors the implementation of action-oriented promises made by nations and "keeps track of their progress", Ms. Khan said.

It ranks all countries by progress made in such areas as child survival, health care, nutrition, education, advances for women, and family planning. Comparisons between nations challenged conventional thinking and held many surprises, she said. Wealthier nations, for instance, do not always come out on top. Among the most encouraging facts in the report is the trend that improvement in the human well-being could be brought about rapidly given a sustained effort.

### World Summit for Children

In 1988, the report launched the idea of a World Summit for Children. The goal was universal child immunization and the adoption of a Convention of the Rights of the Child, which had been discussed for nearly a decade but not yet adopted by the General Assembly. These goals were achieved by the Summit in 1991, Ms. Khan noted. Some 150 countries had now ratified the Convention — "the first step in setting standards for the treatment of children", she said.

### UNICEF activities on TV

UNICEF has begun to use TV for its public awareness campaign. Some years ago, UNICEF suggested the idea of devoting at least one day a year to TV programmes about and for children in consultations with the International Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 1993, more than 800 TV and radio stations in 108 countries took part in the Children's Day of Broadcasting.

**Information made available at the briefing:**

- ***The State of the World's Children 1994***
- ***The Progress of Nations 1993***
- ***National Summaries of The Progress of Nations for the United States and Vietnam***

**Further information can be obtained from:**

***The UNICEF House,***
***3 UN Plaza, 9th floor,***
***New York, N.Y. 10017,***
***or from National Committees and Field Offices.***

## UPCOMING NGO BRIEFINGS

**7 April:** The United Nations and the Elections in South Africa.
**Speakers:** Johan Nordenfelt, Director, Programmes Against Apartheid and for Palestinians Department of Political Affairs.
H.E. Professor Ibrahim A. Gambari, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations, Chairman, Committee Against Apartheid.

**14 April:** Untied Nations Development Programme (UNDP), "1994 Human Development Report".
**Speaker:** Inge Kaul, Director, Human Development Report Office, UNDP.

**21 April:** In collaboration with the NGO Committee on Disarmament.
**Topic:** "Assuring the Success of the Non-Proliferation Treaty Extension Conference".
**Speakers:** Prvoslav Davinic, Acting Director, United Nations Centre for Disarmament Affairs.
Paul Warnke, Committee for National Security.
Roland Timerbaev, Monterey Institute.
Jonathan Dean, Union of Concerned Scientists.

**28 April:** In collaboration with the NGO Committee on UNICEF.
**Topic:** "Implications of the four World Conferences on the World's Children".
**Speaker:** Fay Chung, Chief, Education, Programme Division UNICEF.

For further information on the activities of the NGO Section or on application procedures for NGO association with DPI, please contact:

**Vincent Piola,**
**Chief, NGO Section/DPI**
**801 UN Plaze, Room U103**
New York, New York 10017
Tel: (212) 963 6842
Fax: (212) 963 6914

**DPI PROGRAMME UPDATE:**

**A Fortnightly Publication of the Centres Programme Section.**
**Questions and/or contributions should be directed to:**
**Marian Awwad, Officer-in-Charge, CPS/PERD/DPI**
**Helene Thorup-Hayes, Information Officer,**
**United Nations, Room S-1060, New York, NY 10017**
**TEL (212) 963-6850 FAX (212) 963-7330**

DPI PROGRAMME Update

UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

18 April 1994

## IN THIS ISSUE

News From the Field.....2
Human Settlements.....4
Peace-keeping.....5
Rwanda Outlook.....7
UN University.....8
NGO Section.....9
New Materials.....10

## UPCOMING EVENTS

***2-6 May*** **– DPI / UNESCO Seminar on Media Development and Democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean held in Santiago, Chile**

***15 May*** **– International Day of Families is observed for the first time**

***9-24 May*** **– Committee on Information meets in New York**

***16-27 May*** **– Commission on Sustainable Development meets in New York**

***5 June*** **– World Environment Day is observed with the theme "One Earth, One Family"**

# Chairman of Disarmament Commission Calls for Rapid Negotiations

The Chairman of the Disarmament Commission, Rene Valery Mongbe, has called on Member States to muster the necessary political will to ensure rapid negotiations on disarmament issues. Opening the session of the Disarmament Commission on 18 April, he said there was no global agreement yet on the question of science and technology, but a document on guidelines had been prepared. During its session, the Commission will consider this question along with a new item on international arms transfer. Mr. Mongbe said there is some agreement on the prohibition of nuclear testing and on the relationship between development and disarmament, among other things. The Commission will end its session on 9 May.

***(Press release DC/2465, 18 April).***

## PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT IN UN CONFERENCE WELCOMED

Nitin Desai, USG for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, welcomed private sector involvement in the Global Conference on Small Island Developing States, beginning in Barbados on 25 April. Several companies have donated fund-raising, in-kind contributions, and air tickets for journalists from developing countries, media representatives and NGOs. In letters to several companies, Mr. Desai wrote that he was pleased to see that journalists are recognizing the importance of treating all major UN Conferences "as part of a wider development continuum".

***(Press release ENV/DEV/253, 13 April 1993)***

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMEMORATION OF UN 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The PrepCom for the United Nations 50th Anniversary will ask the General Assembly to hold a special meeting in October 1995 to commemorate the event. A draft before the PrepCom suggests that all Heads of delegations make statements at the meeting.

***(Press release ANV/186)***

## UNIC / UNDP CONVENE SECOND NATIONAL ENCOUNTER

### Parties work to develop a "state agenda"

A few weeks before the elections in Panamá on 8 May, the country's seven Presidential candidates, representatives of the clergy, private and public sector, NGOs and academia, and two former Latin American Presidents, Belisario Betancour of Colombia and Julio María Sanguinetti of Uruguay, sat together again for a discourse on the "State Agenda" for Panamá. This framework programme for the country's future development will be put in place no matter which party wins on 8 May.

"Unity and Human Development" was the theme of the Second National Encounter convened on 4 April by UNIC Director Eduardo Niño-Moreno, who is also UNDP Resident Representative for the country. "UNDP is committed to easing the transition between the Government and whoever is elected on 8 May", he said. The event closely patterned the first gathering held last summer at the mountain retreat known as Bambito. There delegations had adopted the Bambito Declaration in which they identified key national priorities and pledged to work towards transparency in the May elections. That initiative, hailed widely by the Panamanian press and international community, contributed to the formation of a broad consensus and helped the UN system to identify national priorities to facilitate the development of a sound Country Strategy Note, according to Mr. Niño-Moreno.

### Developing a State Agenda

At this Second Encounter, delegates set out to formalize the "State Agenda", a document (based on national priorities identified by the Bambito Declaration) in which each candidate articulated a "Government Plan" to be adopted in the event that he/she is elected. "The idea is to begin working immediately after assuming the Presidency and not to waste any time in determining priorities as happened in the past", says Mr. Niño-Moreno.

Another main objective of the State Agenda is to consolidate democracy in Panamá with the support of all Panamanian sectors. The parties also aim to create effective conditions to fight unemployment, strengthen judicial independence, update health and educational services and achieve conditions for effective management of the Panamá Canal in the year 2,000.

### Sixty per cent Increase in Library Use

At UNIC, where colleagues promoted local and international media relations and provided protocol and logistical support for the Encounter, the impact of the seminar was seen immediately. The Centre reports "floods of inquiries" about the Bambito process, as well as an increase of 60 per cent in the use of its reference library by teachers, business people, researchers, politicians, local and international government officials and the press. The centre was commended for its effective handling of the event by Fernando Zumbado, UNDP's Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean.

***By Yvonne Duncan, Information Officer, DPI***

## ATHENS

Officer-in-Charge of UNIC Athens, Panayotis Karafotias, visited UN Headquarters in mid-April to brief DPI colleagues on activities at UNIC Athens. He brought with him samples of UNIC Athens latest publications on peace-keeping, human rights, the Social Summit, as well as the Secretary-General's report "An Agenda for Peace", translated into Greek.

A published writer, Mr. Karafotias received the Abdi Ipekei Award in 1989 for a poem entitled, "Under the UN Flags". He has received a number of awards since then, among them one given by the Athens Prefecture for his contribution to activities for peace. In December 1993, Mr. Karafotias was honoured by the Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights.

# NEWS FROM THE FIELD

### The UN: the Greatly Misunderstood Organization

Mr. Karafotias' latest publication is entitled, "The United Nations: The Greatly Misunderstood Organization", published in Athens in 1993. The 160-page book presents the historical and institutional background for the United Nations. It concludes that "the new face of the United Nations cannot be different from the synthesis of the faces of its Member States".

Calling the book timely, the Greek media welcomed the important information about the United Nations. Mr. Karafotias said a large number of TV and radio stations, as well as many newspapers and periodicals, had reviewed his book.

### COPENHAGEN

Officer-in-Charge of UNIC Copenhagen, Kim Garval, recently reported on the annual meeting of the Nordic UNAs held in Reykjavik, Iceland, 18-28 March. The Nordic UNAs had invited the USG for Public Policy, Gillian Martin Sorensen, to Iceland to brief them on the United Nations 50th Anniversary. Ms. Sorensen later met with the President of Iceland, Vigdis Finnbogadottir, and the Mayor of Reykjavik. The UNA meeting took place at the Hoefdi house, the site of the Summit in 1988 between US President Reagan and Soviet President Gorbachev. Mr. Garval also participated in the UNA meeting.

### GENEVA

Théo Loir, Chief of the Press Unit at UNIS Geneva, recently visited the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia at the invitation of the French Cultural Centre in Skojpe. Mr. Loir held a lecture entitled, "What Can the United Nations Do In Today's World", to a gathering of 80 people, including diplomats and representatives from the Government and academia. During his visit, Loir gave interviews to the National Radio and TV, and the weekly newspaper,"Puls".

### ISLAMABAD

UNIC Islamabad organized a press conference on 15 February for the Secretary-General's Personal Representative in Afghanistan and Pakistan, Sotirios Mousouris. The meeting, which was attended by some 70 local and foreign media, was covered by Pakistan Television and newspapers.

The Centre also organized a press conference to launch the annual report of the International Narcotics Control Board. Fifty local and foreign correspondents heard an introductory briefing on the report by the Director of the Regional UNDCP Office for South-West Asia.

### LIMA

Augisto Ramirez Ocampo, former Special Representative of the Secretary-General and former Chief of the UN Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL), recently delivered a lecture on UN activities in El Salvador in connection with the recent general elections. Mr. Ocampo told some 100 students and professors from nine different universities gathered at Lima's UN University Forum that ONUSAL together with UNTAC in Cambodia were the most successful UN missions in recent years. The event was organized by UNIC LIma and the UN Forum.

The UN University Forum in Lima offers courses for students from different universities in the study of UN resolutions and decisions and international peace and development.

### MADRID

UNIC Madrid has played an active role in establishing a new UNA of Spain in Madrid. On 25 February, UNIC organized an informative meeting with prestigious personalities. Among participants were UNIC Director Mario Zamorano, the President of the UNA of Spain in Barcelona, and representatives from the UN system in Spain.

# NEWS FROM THE FIELD

### OUAGADOUGOU

UNDP Resident Representative, Ponemi Ngekio, who is also Acting Director of UNIC Ouagadougou, recently visited New York for briefings with DPI colleagues on UNIC activities. Mr. Ngekio highlighted the cooperation in Burkino Faso between the UN system, Government officials, and the donor community. He said that UN Offices in Burkino Faso launched a joint quarterly publication entitled, "UN in Action", in October 1993.

### YEREVAN

UNO Yerevan is assisting the Government of Armenia in organizing an International Seminar on the Present and the Future of the Armenian Family, to be held 27 to 29 April. The Seminar will mark the 1994 International Year of the Family. A photo exhibit, co-organized with UNHCR, UNICEF and UN/UNDP, will be mounted during the Seminar.

### YAOUNDE

After 29 years of cooperation between UNIC Yaounde and the Cameroon Government, an agreement was signed on 18 March formalizing the establishment of the UNIC in Yaounde. Established in October 1965, the Centre is currently servicing Cameroon, the Central African Republic and Gabon. Ferdinand Leopold Oyono, Minister of External Relations, signed for the Government, while Toussaint Kongo-Doudou, Director of the Centre, signed on behalf of the United Nations.

Following the signing ceremony, Mr. Kongo-Doudou said the agreement showed the importance and interest the Cameroon Government attaches to the United Nations and the Secretary-General. He expressed the hope that the agreement would further enable the Centre to carry out effectively its activities. Cameroon's Minister of External Relations, Leopold Oyono, said his country would spare no effort in helping the UNIC accomplish its goals.

# Human Settlements

***The UN Conference on Human Settlements will take place in Turkey from 3 to 14 June 1996.***

### THE CITY SUMMIT

The Secretary-General has called for a global plan of action to change the world's cities into sustainable, safe, healthy, humane and affordable areas. Opening the first PrepCom for the 1996 United Nations Conference on Human Settlements as it began its meeting in Geneva on 11 April, he urged "the city Summit" to focus on how to improve life in urban areas and avoid long-term damage to the environment. ***Press release SG/SM/5263, 11 April 1994).***

### Statistics Important

The usefulness of data and statistics in showing how cities perform was discussed at the PrepCom. The Secretary-General of the Conference, Wally N'Dow, called for data collection as part of country preparations for the Conference in order to measure progress. "We must know what is happening in towns, cities, villages", he said. Delegations from developing countries pointed out that such data does not readily exist for them as it does in many developed countries. They questioned whether all Governments are able to conduct surveys and analyze the resulting data. ***(Press release HAB/85, 15 April 1994).***

Sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world, and adequate shelter for all are among the topics on the agenda at the 1996 Conference. The Secretariat for the Conference is being provided by the UN Centre for Human Settlements (HABITAT). The Centre, that services the PrepComs, is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, where PrepCom II will take place from 26 April to 9 May 1995.

The first Conference on Human Settlements was held in Vancouver, Canada, in 1976.

***General Assembly Resolutions, see page 10***

# PEACE-KEEPING

## SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS BEGINS SESSION

On 28 March, UN Member States began a debate of the challenges and dangers faced by the growing number of UN peace-keeping operations around the world. The Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations -- the forum for the debate -- ends its session on 22 April 1994.

Seventy countries are contributing troops to 17 UN peace-keeping missions currently in operation around the world. Some 72,000 military and civilian personnel are serving the Organization in UN operations. The United Nations spends about $3.2 billion annually on peace-keeping. As of 28 February, some $1.1 billion was owed by Member States.
**(PS/DPI/15/Rev.6, March 1994).**

## Humanitarian assistance must be independent and impartial

The new USG for Humanitarian Assistance, Peter Hansen, called for "innovative and collaborative thinking, both within and outside the United Nations system", in order to coordinate better UN humanitarian assistance with regional efforts. In his address to the Peace-keeping Committee, he said that the percentage of civilian casualties was the highest ever, and "civilians now bear the brunt of the killing and the suffering". Mr. Hansen cautioned that humanitarian assistance should not have "hidden agendas". Issues of race, geography, religion or nationality were irrelevant as humanitarian assistance must be independent, not aligned with any political authority and free from external pressure, he pointed out.

## Developing countries cite cost of operations

Cost of peace-keeping operations are an unprecedented burden on developing countries, and other alternatives, such as sanctions and preventive diplomacy, should be considered, Colombia told the Peace-keeping Committee. Other speakers from developing countries argued that the preoccupation with peace-keeping could prevent the use of other means to maintain international peace and security, such as preventive diplomacy and poverty alleviation.

## VIEWS ON UN PEACE-KEEPING

Five States have submitted their observations and views on UN peace-keeping to the Committee. Member States were invited, under General Assembly resolution 48/42, to express their views in writing by 1 March 1994. The replies are contained in a report by the Secretary-General: **Comprehensive Review of the Whole Question of Peace-keeping Operations in all their Aspects, A/AC.121/41, 16 March 1994.**

## TRAINING AND BETTER COORDINATION

The European Union has called for a more proactive public information function in UN peace-keeping operations and for appropriate measures to ensure the security and safety of UN personnel.

The five Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden) advocate better coordination with humanitarian and civilian aspects of peace-keeping, both at Headquarters and in the field. They also call for a solution to the overall financial problems of UN peace-keeping by shifting from voluntary payment to assessed contributions, paid in full and on time.

In order to improve a given UN mission's performance, the Force Commander or the Special Representative should be given more financial and administrative authority, the Nordics say.

Japan proposes creation of regional training centres for peace-keeping personnel to educate them and inform them of UN rules and discipline. To improve the safety of peace-keepers, troop-contributing countries should be permitted to take measures to protect their troops, Japan suggests.

Turkey welcomes the creation of a genuine UN peace-keeping headquarters in New York with a well-educated planning staff. Stand-by forces should be established and should receive standard training in culture, religion, language, and climate, Turkey suggests.

## INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON SAFETY OF UN PERSONNEL

During 1993, 202 peace-keepers and relief personnel were killed in UN operations around the world, illustrating the problems surrounding the safety of UN personnel.

To set up an International Convention to protect UN staff, the Ad Hoc Committee on Safety and Security of UN Personnel met for the first time at Headquarters from 28 March to 8 April. It adopted a 25-article negotiation text on a future Convention which will enable the prosecution of those responsible for attacks on UN personnel. Speakers said the recent events in Rwanda, in which at least 11 UN peace-keepers were killed, highlighted the urgency of completing the Convention. The Ad Hoc Committee, which was set up under General Assembly resolution 48/37, will meet again from 1 to 12 August in New York.

***(Press release GA/PK/125, 11 April 1994).***

## AVAILABLE MATERIALS:

### Resolutions adopted by General Assembly:

**A/RES/48/42: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects.**

This resolution asks for action in the following areas: resources, finances, organization and effectiveness, issues arising from "An Agenda for Peace", and the status and safety of UN peace-keeping personnel.

## DOCUMENTS

### Reports of the Secretary-General:

**Improving the capacity of the United Nations for peace-keeping (A/48/403, S/26450, 14 March 1994).**

The optimism seen one year ago has diminished as a result of the difficulties encountered in Somalia and the Former Yugoslavia, the Secretary-General says. However, what is important is to search for a response to the problems.

**Progress Report on the in-depth evaluation of peace-keeping: start-up phase (E/AC.51/1994/3, 14 March 1994).**

This report reviews how lessons can be learned from experiences, such as through end-of-mission assessments. It contains recommendations on education, human rights, civilian police and military components of peace-keeping missions.

## VIDEOS

**UN in Action: UN Blue Beret Business Booms in New Zealand. (28 February, Programme No. 323, Dur. 3'30", E, A, S, F, R).**

The UN blue beret worn by UN peace-keepers around the world is manufactured by a New Zealand company, Hills Hats. When the company started production in the late 1980s, the order was a mere 12,000. Now, with the growing demand for UN peace-keepers, the company turns out approximately 250,000 berets annually.

**UN in Action: Massive UN Relief Operation Aids Burundians. (18 April 1994, Programme No. 332, Dur. 2'47", A, E, F, R, S).**

More than one million Burundians fled their homes last year due to the civil conflict in the country. There are about 300,000 people in Burundi itself entirely dependent on food from the World Food Programme (WFP). Aided by UNICEF, farmers are being encouraged to plant food crops to get agriculture started again.

# RWANDA OUTLOOK

## MASS KILLINGS IN RWANDA

A day before the Presidents of Rwanda and Burundi were killed in a plane crash, the UN Security Council decided to extend the mandate of the UN Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR), until 29 July 1994. The Council called on the parties to implement the Arusha Peace Agreement signed on 4 August 1993 (S/RES/909 (1994), 5 April). In the week that followed, violence, mass killings and political strife broke out in Rwanda resulting in the deaths of thousands of people.

The events prompted the Security Council to reconsider the mandate of UNAMIR. Under resolution 912 (1994), the Council decided to reduce the strength of the Mission and to adjust its mandate to act as an intermediary between the parties. With its new mandate, UNAMIR will continue to attempt to secure a cease-fire, assist in the resumption of humanitarian relief, and to monitor and report on developments in Rwanda.

The conflict in Rwanda is rooted in decades of hostility between the Hutu-dominated Government and the Tutsi-backed rebels. Under the Arusha Peace Agreement, the two parties are to form a new integrated army and share power in a new national Government.

The Secretary-General submitted two reports on the situation in Rwanda containing his recommendations to the Council regarding UNAMIR's mandate. **(Special report on UNAMIR, S/1994/470 and S/1994/360)**

### Riots and Killings Continue

Since 6 April, several thousands civilians have been killed in a mass slaughter in the capital city Kigali, reports UN Special Rapporteur Bacre Waly Ndiaye. He is designated by the Commission on Human Rights to investigate extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions.Those responsible for the killings include the Presidential Guard of the Rwandese Armed Forces, militia composed of armed members of political parties, members of the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF), and groups of armed civilians.

Many were allegedly murdered because they were members of the Tutsi ethnic group; while others were said to have been killed because they were suspected of being opponents of the late President of Rwanda, Juvénal Habyarimana, the Special Rapporteur said. Among the victims are five Government Ministers, including the Prime Minister, and at least 20 Roman Catholic nuns and priests. Human rights activists may also have been killed.

### UN Peace-keepers killed

Eleven Belgian UNAMIR peace-keepers were killed as well as a number of Rwandese working for international agencies in Kigali. Staff of UNHCR and ICRC have also been attacked, the Special Rapporteur said. ***Press release HR/CN/560, 15 April 1994).***

# UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY

## "GLOBAL NEIGHBORHOOD" DISCUSSED AT SYMPOSIUM IN TOKYO

Human values, peace and security, environment, and development – seen in a global perspective as elements of a "global neighborhood" – were among the topics discussed by scholars, diplomats, NGO representatives, and journalists at a Symposium on Global Governance held at the United Nations University in Tokyo (UNU) on 18 April.

Sadako Ogata, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, spoke of global "governance of humanitarian crises" and the complex nature of operations to protect refugees in areas of conflict. Other speakers called for global learning and education as a way to promote a "global neighborhood".

Representatives of UNU said they found the Symposium instructive particularly in view of UNU's plans to open a Centre for Global Governance in Barcelona.

Organized jointly by UNU and the Commission on Global Governance, the Symposium was addressed by the Rector of UNU, Heitor Gurglino de Souza, and the two Co-Chairmen of the Commission, Shriddath Ramphal, and Ingvar Carlsson, Former Prime Minister of Sweden.

## RESERVOIR OF IDEAS

During his visit to Tokyo in 1993 for the official opening of the new Headquarters of UNU, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said it should become a "reservoir of ideas, a source of information and understanding which is available to the United Nations in its entirety".

The new Headquarters building in Tokyo has helped raise the profile of UNU, particularly in Japan. More than 7,300 persons attended academic activities held in the building from February to December 1993. UNIC Tokyo relocated to UNU headquarters at the end of 1993.

The University was established in 1973 to promote scholarly international and scientific cooperation geared at helping to solve urgent global problems. It is very different from a traditional teaching university in its structure and mode of operation. It has no students of its own, no faculty, no campus, but operates through world-wide networks of academic and research institutions. The University has research and training centres and programmes located in the following countries: Finland, Ghana, the Netherlands, Macau, Kenya, Venezuela and Zambia.

### Priority areas

For 1990-1995, priority areas for the University are universal human values and global responsibilities, new directions in the world economy, sustaining global life-support systems, advances in science and technology, population dynamics and human welfare. The University is also working to strengthen research and training capabilities in developing countries.

***For further information, please contact:***


**UNU IN TOKYO:**
**Rector: Professor Heitor Gurgulino de Souza (Brazil)**
**53-70 Jingumac, 5-chrome**
**Shibuya, Tokyo 150, Japan.**
**TEL: (81-3) 3499-2811**
**FAX: (81-3) 34992828**

**UNU OFFICE IN NEW YORK:**
**Jacques F. Fomerand**
**UNU Office in North America**
**DC 2 - 2462-70**
**Tel: (212) 963 6345**
**Fax: (212) 371 9454**
**E-mail: unuona@ige.apc.org**

**UNU OFFICE IN EUROPE:**
**C/O UNESCO**
**Peter Koenz**
**Rooms 7B 111-113**
**1, Rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France**
**TEL: (33-1) 4568 3007/10**
**FAX: (33-1) 4065 9186**


***AVAILABLE MATERIALS, see page 11***

# NGO SECTION

***NGO briefing on 17 March 1994: The World Summit on Social Development***

**Speaker: Jacques Baudot, Coordinator for the World Summit on Social Development, Copenhagen, 11 – 12 March 1995.**

### Employment, Eradication of Poverty and Social Integration

Mr. Baudot told the gathering of NGO representatives that solutions to the topics on the agenda of the Social Summit require a high degree of consensus and commitment by the international community. Most UN Member States had participated in the first PrepCom for the Summit, which showed that there was indeed commitment.

The United Nations agencies and organizations and the NGO community are playing an active role in the preparatory process, he said. As a result, the PrepCom had agreed on the content of the draft Declaration, to be presented to PrepCom II in New York in August 1994, containing the platform for the Summit. Mr. Baudot called on NGOs to generate as much debate as possible around the issues to be examined during the conference.

The Conference will address the question of how to reconcile the mix of rights and obligations involved in social development. There are a wide range of legal instruments on development and human rights -- such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the Covenant of Political and Civil Rights – to prevent discrimination and promote social and economic equality, Mr. Baudot said. However, the international community lacks the means to monitor the implementation of these agreements. At the core of the debate will be the problem of reconciling the differences between the obligations and responsibilities of individuals with those of the community as a whole, he pointed out.

Other key questions include finding concrete policies to address unemployment, poverty and problems related to social integration. The United Nations welcomes NGO contributions to meet this challenge, he said.

**For further information on the activities of the NGO Section or on application procedures for NGO association with DPI, please contact:**

**Vincent Piola**
**Chief, NGO Section/DPI**
**801 UN Plaza, Room U103**
**New York, New York 10017**
**Tel: (212) 963 6842**
**Fax: (212) 963 6914**

# NEW MATERIALS

## DPI PUBLICATIONS

**UN Focus: South Africa's First Democratic Elections, (DPI/1469 March 1994).**
This publication describes the process leading to the elections to take place on 27 April of this year, with a chronology of events beginning in December 1989.

**Fact Sheet: South Africa's Democratic Elections: The UN's Observer Role. (DPI/1472, March 1994).**
A description of the role of the United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa (UNOMSA), which began its work in the country in 1992.

**Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing 4-15 September 1995, March 1994, Fact Sheet (DPI/1387/Rev.2).**

**States Members of the United Nations (DPI/1447, Jan. 1994).**
The 184 States Members of the United Nations are listed with the dates on which they became members (E, F, S).

**Jerusalem Visions of Reconciliation, An Israeli-Palestinian Dialogue (DPI/1430, Dec. 1993).**
Proceedings of the DPI Encounter for Greek Journalists on the Question of Palestine, 27-28 April 1993, Athens, Greece.

**Basic Facts about the United Nations, ABC des Nations Unies. (French version DPI/1224, Jan. 1994).**
The 300-page book gives a broad introduction to United Nations history and structure.

**Development Update: No. 2, March-April, (DPI/1452 Rev.2, April 1994).**
The bi-monthly newsletter updates United Nations conferences and special events.

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

**The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook, Volume 18, 1993, Sales no. E.94.IX.1.**
The book contains a review of the main developments and negotiations which took place in 1993 together with a brief history of the major issues.

## VIDEOS

**Designer Spot: 1994 International Year of the Family, (11 April, dur. 30 sec., E, F, S).**
15 May is celebrated around the world as International Family Day. The United Nations has also proclaimed 1994 as the International Year of the Family. In her design for the official emblem of the Year, Swiss artist Catherine Littasy-Rollier has incorporated symbols such as a heart sheltered by a roof and brush strokes to communicate the meaning of the concept "family".

**UN in Action: UN helps land reform process in El Salvador, (7 March, Programme No: 325, Dur. 3'08", E, A, S, F, R).**
The land distribution programme is part of a national effort to address the root causes of the civil war which claimed the lives of more than 75,000 people. Peasants who previously lived and worked on parcels of land will now have to buy it from large landowners through a long-term loan programme. The UN is acting as an observer to ensure the process is fair and voluntary.

## HUMAN SETTLEMENTS...

*continued from page 4*

### General Assembly Resolutions

**Resolution 48/178: Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000.**
The General Assembly urges all Governments to adopt and/or strengthen integrated national shelter strategies to ensure the improvement of living conditions for the rural and urban poor, women and the homeless.

**Resolution 48/176: Human Settlements.**
The Secretary-General is asked to maintain the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (HABITAT) as the global focal point for human settlements and to strengthen its institutional capabilities at its headquarters in Nairobi.

## UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY...

*continued from page 8*

## AVAILABLE MATERIALS

**Report of the Council of the United Nations University, January - December 1993, (A/49/31, 1 March 1994).**

UNU officials have intensified consultations and coordination with other United Nations organizations. The report analyzes the work of the University in the following areas: peace and governance, environment, science and technology, and human and social development.

**Working Papers no. 105-113 June/July 1993: UNU World Institute for Development Economics Research (WIDER), Finland.**

This series of booklets analyzes economic trends in China, Estonia, Poland and Sri Lanka, among other issues.

**New Titles, 1993-1994, the United Nations University Press, 53-70, Jingumae 5-chome, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo, 150 Japan.**

This booklet contains a list of the titles published by scholars in the UNU global network. Among the titles, "The Impact of Technology on Human Rights" juxtaposes in actual situations the skill of human kind to innovate technology and to use it justly. "The Global Greenhouse Regime: Who pays?" aims at helping to close the gap between "playing the tune with the environment and paying the piper".

**University for Peace. A/RES/48/9, 4 November 1993.**

The University for Peace was established in 1979 in Costa Rica to promote post-graduate studies and research on peace. This resolution calls on Member States, NGOs and intergovernmental bodies as well as interested individuals and organizations to contribute to the University's Trust Fund. The item will be included in the agenda of the 50th session of the General Assembly.

## ROUNDTABLE ON INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

*Organized by UN Training Service*

***All meetings will be held from 1:00 to 2:30 pm in Conference Room 4 at UN Headquarters:***

**Wednesday, 20 April:** ***Human Rights and Refugees.***

**Tuesday, 3 May:** ***Regional Organizations and Peace-keeping.***

**Tuesday, 10 May:** ***Peace-keeping: More Diplomacy or More Force? (El Salvador and Somalia).***

**Thursday, 19 May:** ***Regional Politics, Military Efforts and the UN.***

**Wednesday, 1 June:** ***The Insecurity Predicament.***

**DPI PROGRAMME UPDATE**

**A fortnightly publication of the Centres Programme Section. Questions and / or contributions should be directed to:**
**Marian B. Awwad, Officer-in-Charge, CPS/PERD/DPI**
**Helene Thorup-Hayes, Information Officer, United Nations, Room S1060, New York, NY, 10017**
**TEL: (212) 963 6850**
**FAX: (212) 963 7330**